

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing hydrophobic silica fine powder, comprising:

a means for pyrolyzing a silane compound to form silica fine powder,  
a means for agglomerating the silica fine powder,  
a first cyclone and a first filter for collecting the agglomerated silica fine powder,  
a fluidization vessel having a hydrophobizing section or device for hydrophobizing the collected silica fine powder and a deacidifying section or device for removing halogen gas which accompanies the silica from the hydrophobizing section, and

a second cyclone and a second filter for collecting hydrophobic silica fine powder which flies out of the fluidization vessel including both the hydrophobizing section or the device for hydrophobizing and the deacidifying section or the device for removing halogen gas, and for returning the collected hydrophobic silica to the deacidifying section or device, ~~which~~ wherein the second cyclone and second filter can each be held at a temperature of 100 to 500°C.

2. (New) An apparatus for producing hydrophobic silica fine powder, comprising:  
a combustion chamber for pyrolyzing a silane compound to form silica fine powder,  
an agglomerator for agglomerating the silica fine powder,  
a first cyclone and a first filter for collecting the agglomerated silica fine powder,

a fluidization vessel having a hydrophobizing section or device for hydrophobizing the collected silica fine powder and a deacidifying section or device for removing halogen gas which accompanies the silica from the hydrophobizing section, and

a second cyclone and a second filter for collecting hydrophobic silica fine powder which flies out of the fluidization vessel including both the hydrophobizing section or the device for hydrophobizing and the deacidifying section or the device for removing halogen gas, and for returning the collected hydrophobic silica to the deacidifying section or the device for removing halogen gas, wherein the second cyclone and second filter can each be held at a temperature of 100 to 500°C.

3. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hydrophobizing section or device for hydrophobizing the collected silica fine powder conducts hydrophobizing of the collected silica fine powder at a temperature of 400 to 600°C and a flow velocity of 1 to 6 cm/s.

4. (New) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the hydrophobizing section or device for hydrophobizing the collected silica fine powder conducts hydrophobizing of the collected silica fine powder at a temperature of 400 to 600°C and a flow velocity of 1 to 6 cm/s.

5. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the deacidifying section or device for removing halogen gas which accompanies the silica from the hydrophobizing section

conducts deacidification at a temperature of 400 to 500°C and a flow velocity of 1 to 6 cm/s.

6. (New) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the decififying section or device for removing halogen gas which accompanies the silica from the hydrophobizing section conducts deacidification at a temperature of 400 to 500°C and a flow velocity of 1 to 6 cm/s.

7. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second cyclone and second filter can each be held at a temperature of 130 to 200°C.

8. (New) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the second cyclone and second filter can each be held at a temperature of 130 to 200°C.